Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8386

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOPHIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 5921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CA, CH, UR

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REPORT ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS OCTOBER 17 CANADIAN REPORT, CIRCULATED IN NATO, FROM CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE USSR ON DISCUSSIONS OF SINO/ SOVIET RELATIONS WHICH TOOL PLACE DURING VISIT TO MOSCOW OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE PRC, JOHN SMALL, WHO WAS EN ROUTE TO CANADA.

BEGIN TEXT:

I ARRANGED LUNCHEON WHICH INCLUDED CHINESE AMBASSADOR AND MIKHAIL KAPITSA, LEADING SOVIET MFA EXPERT ON CHINA. I ASKED KEPITSA LATER IF HE MINDED LUNCHING WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPLIED ON THE CONTRARY THAT IT WAS FIRST MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH LIU-HSIN-CHUAN IN OVER SIX MONTHS AND LATTER HAD AGREED TO KAPITSA'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY MEET FORMALLY FOR DISCUSSION OF THE STATE OF RELATIONS. THEREFORE HE WAS GRATEFUL TO ME FOR

HAVING MADE NEW DIALOGUE POSSIBLE.

KAPITSA MADE IT CLEAR BOTH TO ME AND SMALL,
HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ANY PROGRESS
BEING MADE IN RELATIONS WITH PRC EITHER ON BORDER TALKS
OR IN GENERAL. ON BORDER TALKS HE SIMPLY SAID CHINESE
"KNOW SOVIET POSITION AND WE AWAIT SUGGESTIONS FROM THEM".
SMALL AND KAPITSA HAD BRIEF TALK ABOUT CHINESE INTERNAL
AFFAIRS AND KAPITSA GAVE HIS OPINION THAT WITHIN TEN YEARS
CHINA WOULD BE IN THROES OF ANOTHER POWER STRUGGLE.

FOLLOWING DAY WE HAD LUNCH AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY. AMBASSADOR SAID VERY LITTLE OF INTEREST EXCEPT TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION TO ATTACK ON CHINA BY BREZHNEV AT BERLIN MEETING AND TO EXPRESS USUAL PESSIMISM ABOUT ANY CHANGE IN SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRC.

OTHER MEMBERS OF CHINESE EMBASSY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BORDER TALKS WERE STALLED BECAUSE RUSSIAMS HAD GONE BACK ON EARLIER UNDERSTANDING AND REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE ANY COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE ON BORDER RECTIFICATIONS. HOWEVER THEY SEEMED TO THINK KEEPING BORDER TALKS IN BEING WAS OF SOME VALUE.

WE HAD HEARD EARLIER FROM WESTERN COLLEAGUES RUMOR THAT TOLSTIKOV MIGHT SOON BE LEAVING PEKING TO BE REPLACED BY CURRENT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, STEPAKOV. CHINESE SAID THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING OF THIS AND THAT IN ANY EVENT STEPAKOV WOULD HARDLY BE AN IMPROVEMENT. HE WAS MORE A TOUGH PARTY MAN THAN A DIPLOMAT. CHANGE OF SOVIET POLICY NOT OF AMBASSADOR WAS BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING HERE OF RUMOUR THAT CHINESE INTENDED FINALLY TO TRY THREE CAPTURED HELICOPTER PILOTS. IF THEY DO, RUSSIANS WILL BE UNDER VERY GREAT PRESSURE TO RETALIATE IN SOME WAY.

END TEXT.

MCAULIFFE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Subject: CANADIAN REPORT ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CA, CH, UR
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BUCHAREST **BUDAPEST** MOSCOW **OTTAWA** PRAGUE SOPHIA

WARSAW
PEKING
HONGKONG
Type: TE
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